

5. A mechanism as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1 wherein the female portion is connected to a link, with the link being inserted through a loop defined at a distal end of the lead.
6. A method of assembling the lead and clip of claim 2 or 3, comprising the steps of:
- 5 (a) laterally inserting the lug and shank into the slot;
- (b) longitudinally moving the shank so that the lug becomes seated at the sleeve seat; and
- (c) inserting and thereby fastening the plug into the slot to secure the lug in the sleeve and to sandwich the lug between the plug and the sleeve seat.
- 10 7. A clip for a pet lead or pet collar, the clip being configured in the shape of an animal, characterised in that a portion of the animal's anatomy is moveable to mechanically operate the clip.
8. A clip as claimed in claim 7, wherein the portion of the animal's anatomy comprises a latching means for opening the clip and enabling it to be clipped onto
- 15 a shackle or ring.
9. A clip as claimed in claim 8, wherein opposing portions of the latching means are respectively configured in the shape of an ear and a jaw of the animal shape such that, by moving the ear portion of the latching means, the jaw portion of the
- 20 latching means can move between open and closed positions.
10. A clip as claimed in claim 8 or 9, wherein the latching means is a lever arm pivotally mounted intermediate its ends to a remainder of the clip, with one end of the lever arm defining a protruding ear of the animal shape for manual
- 25 engagement by a user, and the other end of the lever arm defining a jaw portion of the animal shape that can move to open a mouth portion of the animal shape and
- 30 into which a loop of a shackle or ring can be located.
- ~~An attachment mechanism for attaching together a pet lead and a clip for a pet collar, the mechanism comprising a male portion adapted for connection to one of the lead or clip, and a female portion adapted for connection to the other of the clip or lead respectively, wherein part of the male portion is externally threaded and part of the female portion is internally threaded, with the threads enabling screw coupling together of the male and female portions.~~

~~A mechanism as claimed in claim 11, wherein the male portion is an externally threaded bolt, and the female portion is integrally formed with and extends from a proximal end of the clip;~~

5 ~~A mechanism as claimed in claim 12, wherein a link is connected to a distal end of the lead by being inserted through a looped end thereof, with a sleeve being mounted to the link, and wherein the female portion is inserted into an open end of this sleeve and the male portion is inserted into an opposite open end of this sleeve and into screw coupling engagement with the female portion;~~

10 ~~A mechanism as claimed in claim 13, wherein the female portion is snugly received to rotate in use in the sleeve, whereas the male portion has an enlarged head protruding out beyond the female portion and beyond an inner diameter of the sleeve to retain the female portion in the sleeve;~~

~~An attachment mechanism for attaching together a pet lead and a clip for a pet collar; the mechanism comprising a male portion adapted for connection to one of the lead or clip, and a female portion adapted for connection to the other of the clip or lead respectively, wherein the male portion comprises a shank and the female portion comprises a sleeve, the shank being insertable through the sleeve such that a distal end protrudes therebeyond, with the shank free end comprising a groove, the mechanism further comprising a circlip that is adapted for engaging into the groove when the shank distal end protrudes beyond the sleeve, with the circlip having a perimeter dimension that is greater than an inner dimension of the sleeve whereby a body of the shank can be retained in the sleeve;~~

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~~A link for attaching together a pet lead and a clip for a pet collar wherein the link is in the form of a karabiner that is joined to or integrally formed with a proximal end of the clip, with an opening through the karabiner being sized such that a looped distal end of the lead may be passed therethrough to attach the link to the lead;~~

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~~A link as claimed in claim 16, wherein a sleeve is mounted to the link, and wherein a shank extends from the clip and is inserted through the sleeve such that a free end protrudes therebeyond, the shank free end being swaged so as to have a perimeter that is greater than an inner dimension of the sleeve to thereby attach the clip to the link;~~

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~~7.18. An attachment mechanism for attaching together a pet lead and a clip for a pet collar, the mechanism comprising a male portion adapted for connection to one of~~

~~the lead or clip, and a female portion adapted for connection to the other of the clip or lead respectively, wherein part of the male portion is externally threaded and part of the female portion is internally threaded, with the threads enabling screw coupling together of the male and female portions.~~

5 ~~8. A mechanism as claimed in claim 7, wherein the male portion is an externally threaded bolt, and the female portion is integrally formed with and extends from a proximal end of the clip.~~

9. ~~A mechanism as claimed in claim 8, wherein a link is connected to a distal end of the lead by being inserted through a looped end thereof, with a sleeve being mounted to the link, and wherein the female portion is inserted into an open end of this sleeve and the male portion is inserted into an opposite open end of this sleeve and into screw coupling engagement with the female portion.~~

10 ~~10. A mechanism as claimed in claim 9, wherein the female portion is snugly received to rotate in use in the sleeve, whereas the male portion has an enlarged head protruding out beyond the female portion and beyond an inner diameter of the sleeve to retain the female portion in the sleeve.~~

11. ~~An attachment mechanism for attaching together a pet lead and a clip for a pet collar, the mechanism comprising a male portion adapted for connection to one of the lead or clip, and a female portion adapted for connection to the other of the clip or lead respectively, wherein the male portion comprises a shank and the female portion comprises a sleeve, the shank being insertable through the sleeve such that a distal end protrudes therebeyond, with the shank free end comprising a groove, the mechanism further comprising a circlip that is adapted for engaging into the groove when the shank distal end protrudes beyond the sleeve, with the circlip having a perimeter dimension that is greater than an inner dimension of the sleeve whereby a body of the shank can be retained in the sleeve.~~

12. ~~A link for attaching together a pet lead and a clip for a pet collar wherein the link is in the form of a karabiner that is joined to or integrally formed with a proximal end of the clip, with an opening through the karabiner being sized such that a looped distal end of the lead may be passed therethrough to attach the link to the lead.~~

13. ~~A link as claimed in claim 12, wherein a sleeve is mounted to the link, and wherein a shank extends from the clip and is inserted through the sleeve such that a free end~~

protrudes therebeyond, the shank free end being swaged so as to have a perimeter that is greater than an inner dimension of the sleeve to thereby attach the clip to the link.

14. A link for attaching together a pet lead and a clip for a pet collar, with a distal end of the lead being looped, wherein the link comprises:

- 5 --a shackle body which can pass through the loop at the lead distal end and/or be connected to the clip; and
 --a pin for the shackle body which can pass through the loop at the lead distal end, or through an aperture in the clip, respectively.

10 15. A link as claimed in claim 14, wherein the shackle body is U-shaped having first and second arms, each adapted at a distal end thereof for receiving the pin thereinto.

16. A link as claimed in claim 15, wherein the pin has a threaded end and an opposing enlarged head, with the pin threaded end being screwable into a threaded recess defined at the distal end of the first arm, and the pin enlarged head being restrained at a recess defined at the distal end of the second arm.

15 17. An attachment mechanism for attaching together a pet lead and a clip for a pet collar, the mechanism comprising a link that is mounted to or integrally formed with the clip, or that extends through an aperture in the clip, with the link being adapted for extending through a looped distal end of the lead, wherein the looped end of the lead is defined by a buckle and accompanying pivot pin arrangement in which a free end of the lead is
20 looped back through the buckle, and the pivot pin of the buckle arrangement is inserted through a hole in the lead free end to lock the same against movement in the buckle.

18. An attachment mechanism for attaching together a pet lead and a clip for a pet collar, the mechanism comprising a link for connecting the clip and lead together, the link being mounted to or integrally formed with the clip, or extending through an aperture in
25 the clip, and also extending through a looped distal end of the lead, the looped end defined by folding back a free end of the lead and releasably fastening it against an adjacent part of the lead, wherein the releasable fastening is by way of one or more press studs or threaded studs.

19. A mechanism or link as defined in any one of claims 5, 9 or 12 to 18, the link being
30 ring-like and having an oval shape or a rectangular shape.

20. An attachment mechanism for attaching together a pet lead and a clip for a pet collar, the mechanism comprising a first link that extends through a looped distal end of the lead, and a second link mounted to or integrally formed with the clip, or extending

through an aperture in the clip, with one of the first or second links having a stem of a T-piece projecting therefrom, and with the other of the second or first links respectively being connected to a body that has a corresponding T-shaped slot defined therein for receipt of the T-piece to connect the first and second links together;

5 ——— wherein the T-piece and body are each elongate, with the T-shaped slot extending longitudinally through the body and defining a T-shaped opening to the slot at an end thereof through which the elongate T-piece can be slid to connect the first and second links together;

21. A mechanism as claimed in claim 20, wherein a grub screw or pin can be mounted to
10 extend through the T-piece and into the body when the T-piece is located in the body to lock the first and second links together;

22. An attachment mechanism for attaching together a pet lead and a clip for a pet collar, the mechanism comprising:

15 —a body having a hollow interior and an aperture to that interior, with the body being connected to the lead or clip; and
—a shank with a lug at a free end thereof, the lug having a greater cross-sectional dimension than that of the aperture, but sized to fit within the body hollow interior, with the shank being connected to the clip or lead respectively;

20 ——— wherein the lug is resilient such that it deforms as it is inserted through the aperture and, once located in the hollow interior, reforms to thereby attach the lead and clip together.

23. An attachment mechanism for attaching together a pet lead and a clip for a pet collar, the mechanism comprising:

25 ——— a body having a hollow interior and an aperture to that interior, with a ring element being located within the hollow interior, and with the body being connected to the lead or clip; and

——— a shank having a groove located around and adjacent to a distal end of the shank, the groove being adapted for receiving the ring element therein, with the shank being connected to the clip or lead respectively;

30 ——— wherein at least one of the shank and/or ring element is resilient to deform as the shank is inserted through the aperture so that, once the shank distal end is located in the hollow interior, the ring element rides into the groove to connect the lead and clip together.

~~24. A mechanism as claimed in claim 23, wherein the ring element comprises a circular spring which deforms as the shank moves therepast, and which expands into the groove once it is aligned therewith.~~

~~25. A mechanism or link as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the lead comprises a strap.~~

~~26. A mechanism or link as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the lead comprises a handle at a proximal end thereof.~~

~~27. A mechanism or link as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the clip has a spring-loaded pin defining a gateway to an aperture of the clip, and wherein a protruding hook extends outwardly from the pin and is adapted for receiving a user's finger thereat to enable urging of the pin against the spring to open the gateway.~~

~~28. A mechanism or link as claimed in claim 27 wherein the hook is J- or U-shaped and is sized to receive a user's finger snugly therein.~~

~~29. A mechanism or link as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 26, wherein a gateway to an aperture of the clip is defined by an elongate member pivotally mounted intermediate its ends to the clip to define a lever portion of the member extending away from the clip that can be actuated by a user's hand, with an opposite end of the member defining a gate portion to the gateway that can be pivoted open and closed by actuation of the lever portion.~~

~~30. A mechanism or link as claimed in claim 29 wherein the clip comprises an elongate body with a head at a remote end thereof, the head defining the aperture and the gateway thereto, and wherein the elongate member is pivotally mounted to the clip adjacent to the head such that the lever portion extends from one side of the clip body and the gate portion extends from an opposite side.~~

~~31. A mechanism or link as claimed in claim 30 wherein the elongate member is biased by a spring into the gateway closed position.~~

~~32. A clip for a pet lead or pet collar, the clip being as defined in any one of claims 28 to 31.~~

~~33. A clip for a pet lead or pet collar, the clip being configured in the shape of an animal, characterised in that a portion of the animal's anatomy is moveable to mechanically operate the clip.~~

~~34. A clip as claimed in claim 33, wherein the portion of the animal's anatomy comprises a latching means for opening the clip and enabling it to be clipped onto a shackle or ring.~~

~~35. A clip as claimed in claim 34, wherein opposing portions of the latching means are respectively configured in the shape of an ear and a jaw of the animal shape such that, by moving the ear portion of the latching means, the jaw portion of the latching means can move between open and closed positions.~~

~~36. A clip as claimed in claim 34 or 35, wherein the latching means is a lever arm pivotally mounted intermediate its ends to a remainder of the clip, with one end of the lever arm defining a protruding ear of the animal shape for manual engagement by a user, and the other end of the lever arm defining a jaw portion of the animal shape that can move to open a mouth portion of the animal shape and into which a loop of a shackle or ring can be located.~~

ABSTRACT

5 ~~Disclosed are configurations which enable the selection of a pet lead configuration at point of sale. Components can be stored in a disassembled configuration, and assembled using an attachment means or link for attaching the pet lead or collar to a clip for a pet collar. The clip can be configured in the shape of an animal, with a portion of the animal's anatomy being mechanically moveable to operate the clip.~~